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Euthallophyta and Cormophyta. Passing to the detailed subdivision of the main groups, the descriptions of orders and families and the illustrations are generally very good. We note that the Protococcaceae and Hydrodictyceae are placed at the bottom of the large order Siphonae, a position that is certainly open to question. The Charales are reduced to a suborder of the same group, which seems curious for so highly specialized and well defined a line of development. Among the fungi the Brefeldian system is followed in part, with much of the arrangement in Engler and Prantl; and the classification of the Phaeophyta and Rhodophyta is a brief outline of the latter work. These two groups are not given the attention they deserve.—B. M. DAVIS.

MINOR NOTICES.

HERMANN VON SCHRENK has published¹ his address on "Factors which cause the decay of wood," delivered before the Western Society of Engineers on February 6 last. It deals with such topics as structure, chemical nature, and decay of wood, fungi and structural timbers, and preventive measures.—J. M. C.

THE THIRD FASCICLE² of the list of the genera of seed plants, according to the system of Engler, has just appeared. The general character of the work was stated in this journal³ in the notice of the first part. In the present signature 1352 genera are listed, bringing the number up to 3842, the list beginning with *Lychnis* (Caryophyllaceae) and ending with *Geoffraea* (Leguminosae).—J. M. C.

F. LAMSON-SCRIBNER⁴ has published a revised edition of the second part of his *American grasses*, the first edition having been exhausted. The work has been entirely rewritten, the synonymy has been revised or extended, and the descriptions are much fuller. The two parts now contain illustrations and descriptions of 627 species, and are invaluable to those who would name grasses.—J. M. C.

CHARLES V. PIPER and R. KENT BEATTIE⁵ have published a manual of the flora within a radius of about twenty-one miles around Pullman, Wash. This includes some twenty-four townships in Washington and eleven in

¹ Reprint from Jour. Western Soc. Engineers, May 1901.

² DALLA TORRE, C. G. DE, and HARMS, A.: *Genera Siphonogamarum ad systema Englerianum conscripta. Fasciculus tertius* (signatura 21-30). Small 4to. pp. 161-240. Leipzig: Wilhelm Engelmann. 1901. *M* 4.

³ BOT. GAZ. 30:67. 1900.

⁴ *American grasses. II. Revised edition.* 8vo. pp. 349. Bulletin 17, Division of Agrostology, U. S. Department of Agriculture. 1901.

⁵ *The flora of the Palouse region.* 8vo. pp. viii + 208. Published by the Washington Agricultural College and School of Science, Pullman. May 14, 1901.

Idaho, the region consisting mainly of rolling hills, destitute of trees and shrubs, and said to be quite typical of a large area in eastern Washington and western Idaho. These hills are generally called Palouse hills, and hence the title of the book. The manual certainly covers a region of very great interest in its unrivaled floristic riches. The keys and descriptions seem to be entirely adequate, and, checked as they have been by the large field experience of the authors, the manual must give as good a presentation of the flora as is possible at present. The nomenclature follows what are called the Kew and Berlin rules. Several new species are described, and the enumeration of species shows 14 pteridophytes, 9 gymnosperms, 114 monocotyledons, and 526 dicotyledons. The exceedingly varied conditions of the western mountain region will demand the publication of just such local manuals as this.—J. M. C.

THE LIVERPOOL Marine Biological Committee is doing good work in publishing short popular papers on the more interesting animals and plants in the general region of its activities, the Irish sea. The first three papers described animals, but the fourth, just issued, is on *Codium*,⁶ a very interesting genus of the Siphonales. Following a general introduction, we have presented an account of the structure, reproduction, habits, and distribution of this alga. The life history is still incomplete in certain phases of reproduction. There are two forms of sporangia, one producing large green zoospores and the other small yellow elements, both however morphologically similar and biciliate. The larger green zoospores will germinate vegetatively, and the problems concern the fate and function of the small yellow bodies. They have been supposed to be sperms that should fuse with the green swarmers, but no unions have ever been observed. It is probable that the yellow zoospores are gametes, which under suitable condition will conjugate with one another. The authors of the paper suggest that the plant is becoming apogamous, a view that has support, further than the mere negative evidence, in the fact that the hypothetical gametangia at certain stages in their development may be reproductive. They are then adventitious buds, capable of growing out in a branching filament, which however appears to remain attached to the parent plant. The paper is illustrated with three very clear plates.—B. M. DAVIS.

NOTES FOR STUDENTS.

THE POLLEN tube in *Cucurbita Pepo* according to B. Longo⁷ traverses the tissues of the funiculus and outer integument before entering the

⁶GIBSON and AULD: *Codium*. pp. viii + 18. pls. 3. L. M. B. C. Memoirs. IV. 1900.

⁷La mesogamia nella comune zucca (*Cucurbita Pepo* Linn.). Rendiconti della R. Accademia dei Lincei 10: 168-172. 1901.